

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-21 (cancelled).

22. (previously presented) A structural element according to claim 25, wherein the body segments are made of a closed-cell foam material.

23. (previously presented) A structural element according to either claim 25 or claim 28, wherein the thermoplastic material is polyethylene-terephthalate (PET) or styrene/acrylonitrile-copolymer (SAN).

24. (previously presented) A structural element according to claim either 25 or claim 28, wherein the weld seams comprises melted plastic of the body segments.

25 (currently amended) A structural element comprises a block comprising a plurality of body segments of a foamed, thermoplastic material having a stretched polymer structure in one direction, the body segments being arranged next to each other and joined together on a plane defining foam sheets running transverse or perpendicular to the one direction of the stretched polymer structure, wherein the structural element is made wholly of plastic and the body segments are welded together at abutting side faces forming weld seams, whereby the weld seams form a substantially pore-free intermediate plastic layer

in the form of a network of stiffening struts defined by intersecting weld seams, wherein each of the weld seams have a thickness such that a network strut structure is formed by the weld seams which increases the compressive strength of the structural element with respect to surface pressure.

26. (previously presented) A structural element according to claim 22, wherein the body segments are formed from lengths cut from rod-shaped or column-shaped foam bodies.

27. (previously presented) A structural element according to claim 26, wherein the rod-shaped or column-shaped foam bodies are formed by means of extrusion, and the direction of extrusion in the body segments manufactured from the foam bodies lies substantially parallel to a line of intersection of two intersecting weld seams.

28. (currently amended) A structural element comprises a block comprising a plurality of body segments of a foamed, thermoplastic material that are arranged next to each other and joined together on a plane, wherein the structural element is made wholly of plastic and the body segments are welded together at abutting side faces forming weld seams, whereby the weld seams form a substantially pore-free intermediate plastic layer in the form of a network of stiffening struts defined by intersecting weld seams, wherein the body segments comprise a stretched polymer structure in a direction of extrusion, and wherein the stretched polymer structure is in a direction which is perpendicular to the plane.

29. (previously presented) A structural element according to either claim 25 or claim 28, wherein the body segments have a cross-section which enables the body segments to be fitted together without interruption.

30. (previously presented) A structural element according to either claim 25 or claim 28, wherein the body segments have a polygonal shape.

31. (previously presented) A structural element according to either claim 25 or claim 28, wherein the structural element (10) is a plastic sheet.

32-39 (cancelled).

40. (previously presented) A structural element according to either claim 25 or claim 28, wherein the structural element is a plastic sheet having opposed relatively large area sides, and relatively small area edges, and where the stretched polymer structure is in a direction perpendicular to the relatively large area sides.

41. (new) A structural element according to either claim 25 or 28, wherein the weld seams form a structure with uninterrupted transverse weld seams and longitudinal weld seams that are offset with respect to each other.

42. (new) A structural element according to either claim 25 or claim 28, wherein the body segments are arranged on a plane next to each other and are welded together forming the weld seams.